

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) A memory controller for accessing a flash memory having a plurality of physical blocks each including a plurality of pages and in which stored data is erased in a unit of the physical block, based on a host address which is in unit of a sector of data, supplied from a host computer, comprising:

search means for searching a start page, ~~corresponding to a last page of at least one page to which data is written,~~ in said the physical block corresponding to the host address supplied from the host computer;

determining means for determining whether ~~the at least one page designated by a first page of a page or pages corresponding to~~ the host address ~~or addresses~~ supplied from the host computer ~~are~~ is either one of the searched start page and a page located after the searched start page, or not, the searched start page and subsequent at least one page, or at least one page located after the start page;

write means for writing data supplied from the host computer into ~~at least one the page or pages designated by corresponding to~~ the host address ~~or host addresses~~ supplied from the host computer when the determining means determines that the first page of a page or pages designated by corresponding to the host address ~~or host addresses~~ supplied from the host computer ~~are~~ is the searched start page, the searched start page and subsequent at least one page, or at least one the page located after the searched start page; and

start page information write means ~~for writing~~ which writes start page information into a ~~redundancy~~ redundant area of ~~[[a]] the start page at a time when the write means starts writing data supplied from the host computer into the flash memory;~~ which is searched by the search means, the start page information representing a page which is next to a last page of the page or pages into which data will be written by the write means and become a new start page after the data is written by the writing means; wherein

~~the start page information representing being a next page next to the last page~~ of a page or pages into which ~~the data of last sector of the data~~ the data supplied from the host computer is ~~to be~~ written; and

~~a page being next page of a page which is in a physical block corresponding to the host address supplied from the host computer and into which last data is to be written becoming new start page;~~

the search means searching the start page ~~based on~~ by referring the start page information written in the redundant area.

22. (Currently Amended) ~~A memory controller as set forth in claim 21 including a flash memory system having a flash memory~~ and the memory controller as set forth in claim 21.

23. (Currently Amended) A memory control method for accessing a flash memory having a plurality of physical blocks each including a plurality of pages and in which stored data is erased in unit of the physical block, based on a host address which is in unit of a sector ~~of data~~, supplied from a host computer, comprising:

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searching a start page, ~~corresponding to a last page of a page or pages to which data is written~~, in a physical block corresponding to the host address supplied from the host computer;

determining whether first page or a page or pages ~~designated by~~ corresponding to the host address ~~or addresses~~ supplied from the host computer ~~are~~ is either one of the searched start page; ~~the searched start page and subsequent at least one page, or at least one~~ and a page located after the searched start page, or not;

writing data supplied from the host computer into ~~at least one~~ the page ~~or pages~~ ~~designated by~~ corresponding to the host address ~~or host addresses~~ supplied from the host computer when determining that the page ~~or pages~~ ~~designated by~~ corresponding to the host address ~~or host addresses~~ supplied from the host computer ~~are~~ is the searched start page; ~~the searched start page and subsequent at least one page, or at least one~~ the page located after the searched start page; and

writing start page information into a ~~redundancy~~ redundant area of ~~[[a]]~~ the start page at a time when starting writing data supplied from the host computer into the flash memory;

the start page ~~information representing a next page of a~~ being a page next to a last page or pages into which ~~data of last sector of the data~~ supplied from the host computer is ~~to be~~ written;

~~a page being next page of a page which is in a physical block corresponding to the host address supplied from the host computer and into which last data is to be written becoming new start page;~~

the start page being searched based on the start information by referring the data written in the redundant area.